(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project envisages construction of sorting platforms, auction hall, repair shed, administrative block, security room, locker room, canteen, water and power supply etc. including land acquisition at an estimated revised cost of Rs. 61.50 lakhs.

(c) The matter is under examination.

Minimum Selling Price to Chillies

2299. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE br pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh to introduce minimum selling price to chillies; and

(b) if so, at what stage of consideration is the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh sent a proposal for purchase of chillies for market intervention Scheme. Market intervention price was fixed at Rs. 1500 per qtl. FAQ in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and a quantity *of* 10,000 metric tonnes of chillies has been purchased by Central and State designated agencies.

Small and Marginal Farmers

2300. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state:

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers at the end of sixth and seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of schemes taken up for the benefit of these farmers;

(c) how far small and marginal farmers have been benefited by these schemes; and

(d) what are the schemes/programmes taken up for the benefit of these farmers during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to 1985-86 Agriculture Census the number of small and marginal farmers (operational holdings) was as follows:

Small	**1,79,2,000**
Marginal	**5,61,47,000**
TOTAL	**7,40,69,000**

(b) to (d) To improve the conditions of small and marginal farmers Government have undertaken various schemes and programmes including poverty alleviation and crop oriented programmes. For example, subsidy has been provided to small and marginal farmers for getting fertilizer at concessional rates, under extension activities special attention is being paid to small and marginal farmers, they are also being benefited through various other programmes under Rural Development. In addition, in 1992-93 assistance was provided to States to create basic infrastructural facilities for small and marginal farmers. All the schemes mentioned above are plan schemes under the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Inclusion of Horticulture Product in the Crop Insurance Scheme

2301. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether insurance of horticultural products has also been included in the comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if *so,* the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Cattle Wealth in the Crop Insurance Scheme

2302. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce crop insurance/insurance scheme to